

From: DigitalBurn2k1
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/1/02 3:53am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear to whom this may concern,

I am an upcoming programmer at a major university. And, this court case has caught my attention. I would like to tell you that I do not agree with the government completely in the solutions to this problem. Microsoft has been in violation of some monopoly laws, I agree. However, I feel that to impede on the authoring writes of a company is not legitimate. Something would have to be changed, granted, but I do not agree that Microsoft Middleware such as Internet Explorer should be changed.

A major step that Microsoft made in the 1995 windows was the integration of internet explorer. I understood this major step, as it makes the operating system more closely tied to the internet. This is a convenience to the user. Sure, it may impede on Netscape; however, I believe that this is a must have feature with today's internet fueled economy/society. This technology has led to other web integrated technologies that Microsoft has developed and have greatly impacted the world, making our computer lives easier.

I feel that if the government impedes on Microsoft's freedom to produce technology, then they are stopping progress. If you would have told Microsoft that they could not have integrated net features with the OS years ago, then

- 1) this ordeal would not be in court
- 2) Microsoft would have surely lost consumers as someone else would have moved on the idea

The government I understand is trying to keep competition in the marketplace. However, I would like to see progress thrive. Competition will always survive as it drives software makers to produce better software. Netscape is not better software, that is half the reason they have fallen in sales, just a personal user opinion. How can the government say what the best road is for technology? What if they are taking a wrong turn by penalizing Microsoft, which will in turn cause technology to slow progression? That is neither healthy for our citizens or our economy.

I think that if the government is going to penalize Microsoft, they should do it in a way that is not hurting their creative rights, rights that have made the US dominant in the computing field. Lets face it, it is Microsoft that has given us an edge in the technology industry for the past 20 years. Do not ruin that because of some useless company like Netscape.

Sincerely,
Brad Davis